

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3942

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3942

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR CASC ET US (HANNA, RICHARD)

SUBJECT: STATUS OF CASE

REF: ADDIS ABABA 3084 AND PREVIOUS

1. HANNA STILL BEING HELD AS MATERIAL WITNESS IN ARMENIAN FRIENDS' TRIAL (PARA 2, REFTEL). AT OUR REQUEST, ATTORNEY FILED WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS WHICH WAS REFUSED. IN ATTORNEY'S WORDS QUOTE. THE COURT WAS SHOCKED THAT I WOULD PRESENT SUCH A REQUEST. UNQUOTE. JUDGES INFORMED HIM THAT THEY COULD NOT POSSIBLY CONSIDER THIS BECAUSE IF WORD GOT OUT, QUOTE. EVERY ETHIOPIAN NOW HELD IN PRISON WITHOUT CHARGES WOULD REQUEST EITHER TRIAL OR RELEASE. UNQUOTE. BELIEVE THIS CLEARLY DESCRIBES THE PRESENT STATE OF THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE IN ETHIOPIA.

2. ATTORNEY WHO IS QUITE OUTSPOKEN, PERHAPS DANGEROUSLY SO FROM THE STANDPOINT OF HIS PERSONAL SAFETY, CONFIDED THAT HE IS FINDING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO WORK WITHIN JUDICIAL SYSTEM WHERE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED AND LAWS ARE IGNORED OR TWISTED TO SUIT NEEDS OF THOSE IN POWER. IN HANNA'S CASE, ATTORNEY HAS PURSUED LEGAL AVENUES OPEN TO HIM AND HAS MET BRICK WALL EVERY TIME.

3. HANNA DUE TO APPEAR IN COURT AGAIN FRIDAY, APRIL 4.

4. COMMENT: WE HOPE THAT SCHEDULED FRIDAY COURT APPEARANCE WILL END HANNA'S ROLE AS WITNESS AND THAT HE WILL THEREAFTER
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BE EXPELLED FROM ETHIOPIA.

HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

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